

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ANKARA 00568 221754Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

SAM-01 /071 W

----- 103394

R 221440Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2107

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTNABUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 0568

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO KARATAS APPOINTMENT

REF: ANKARA 490

1. THE APPOINTMENT OF SABAN KARATAS AS DIRGEN OF TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) HAS RESULTED IN A VERBAL BARRAGE OF CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES FROM POLITICAL FIGURES AND THE PRESS:

A. PRIMIN DEMIREL RESPONDED JANUARY 20 TO REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT'S HARSH CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT KORUTURK (REFTEL) FOR SIGNING THE APPOINTMENT DECREE. HE SAID, "NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE RPP MAY RESIST AND OPPOSE IT, THE TRT WILL BE IMPARTIAL AND NATIONAL," AND CHIDED THE RPP FOR ATTACKING THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE IT "HAD BEEN UNABLE TO USE HIM TO OBSTRUCT THE GOVERNMENT." DEMIREL ADDED, "LOOK AT THE RPP'S YARDSTICK: IF THE PRESIDENT DOES WHAT THEY WANT, HE IS IMPARTIAL; IF NOT, HE IS TAKING SIDES."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ANKARA 00568 221754Z

B. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY

RELEASED A SELF-EXCULPATORY STATEMENT JANUARY 22 WHICH NOTED THAT "THE PROBLEM IS THAT PROVISIONS OF THE LAWS DO NOT HAVE DEFINITE RULES CONCERNING THE ASSIGNMENT DECREES PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONSEQUENTLY LACK CLARITY ABOUT THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN. UNLESS THIS QUESTION IS SOLVED ONCE AND FOR ALL, THESE ARGUMENTS WILL CONTINUE WHENEVER THE GOVERNMENT CHANGES." THE STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT IN SOME APPOINTMENTS A PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT WAS REQUIRED AND IN OTHERS IT WAS NOT. IT REQUESTED THAT THE POLITICAL PARTY CHAIRMEN COME UP WITH NEW LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THE MATTER. THE STATEMENT ALSO SAID, IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO ECEVIT'S CRITICISM, "UNDER ARTICLE 97 OF THE CONSTITUTION, IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERYONE TO KEEP THE PRESIDENT...ABOVE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS OR STRATEGIES."

C. RPP SENATOR NIYAZI UNSAL TOUCHED OFF A SMALL

FUROR, DECLARING THAT "WHOEVER ASSIGNED KARATAS, AN ENEMY OF ATATURK, IS ALSO AN ENEMY OF ATATURK." HIS STATEMENT LED TO A MOTION BY JUSTICE PARTY (JP) DEPUTY ISMET SEZGIN TO SUSPEND UNSAL FROM PARLIAMENT. JP GROUP DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AYGUN NOTED THAT "THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, THE FLAG AND THE PRESIDENT" HAD TO BE KEPT ABOVE POLEMICS.

2. KARATAS, WHO TALKED WITH REPORTERS AFTER PAYING A CALL ON DEPUTY PRIMIN (AND NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY CHAIRMAN) ERBAKAN, DID LITTLE TO DISPEL CHARGES THAT HE HARBORS PAN-TURANIST SENTIMENTS WHEN HE SAID, "I AM HAPPY TO HAVE THE HONOR OF SERVING THE STATE IN WHOSE ETERNITY WE ALL BELIEVE, AS DID OUR ANCESTORS." KARATAS ALSO RAISED

A FEW EYEBROWS IN HIS FIRST DAY AS TRT DIRGEN BY FIRING THE HEAD OF TRT TELEVISION AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEWS DEPARTMENT. ERBAKAN SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD KARATAS "WE THE NSP BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED IN (TRT) BROADCASTS. WE WANT OUT SHARE OF TRT. PREVENT...ANY INJUSTICE IN THE NSP'S FAVOR, BUT DO NOT LET THE NSP'S RIGHTS BE VIOLATED.

3. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS DIVIDED ALONG PARTISAN LINES:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ANKARA 00568 221754Z

A. PRO-RPP BARIS ON JANUARY 20 COMMENTED ON THE FIRING OF TELEVISION DIRECTOR SOZER: "THE NEW TRT DIRECTOR HAS NOT HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO KNOW IF SOZER WAS CAPABLE IN HIS WORK OR NOT, THIS IS NOT HIS FIELD, JUST AS IT IS NOT THE FIELD OF THE TELEVISION DEPARTMENT TO KNOW ABOUT LEGHORN CHICKENS IN WHICH KARATAS IS AN EXPERT."

B. PRO-NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY ORTA DOGU JANUARY 21

DEFENDED THE PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT NOTING THAT "THE
CONSTITUTION DOES NOT GIVE HIM THE AUTHORITY TO VETO
A DECISION INSISTED ON BY THE GOVERNMENT."

C. LIBERAL MILLIYET'S EDITOR IPEKCI WROTE

"IT WOULD BE WRONG AND UNFAIR TO ACCUSE THE PRESIDENT
OF TAKING SIDES AND THE FACT THAT HE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY
BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPPOSITON PROVES THIS."

IPEKCI ALSO REPORTED THAT "CIRCLES CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT "
SAY THAT THE PRESIDENCY IS AN OFFICE WHICH "ESTABLISHES A
GOVERNMENT, NOT ONE WHICH UPSETS A GOVERNMENT".

MACOMBER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, NATIONALIZATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, RADIO BROADCASTING, TELEVISION BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA00568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-1035
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760133/aaaabcph.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 490
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO KARATAS APPOINTMENT
TAGS: PINT, TU, (KARATAS, SABAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006